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DALTON-IN-FURNESS
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947.



DALTON-IN-FURNESS:
J. SINKINSON & SON, PRINTERS,
1948

Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Dalton-in-Furness.**

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1947.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 8,022.

Population 10,470.

Number of inhabited houses 3,050.

Rateable Value £39,987.

Amount produced by a Penny Rate £150.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.—Two hundred and eighteen births, 110 male and 108 female, were registered during the year. The birth-rate at 20.8 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 17.6 per 1,000 in 1946. Eleven of the total births were of illegitimate children.

STILLBIRTHS.—Five children were stillborn during the year, giving a stillbirth rate of 22 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS.—One hundred and thirty-one deaths of residents, 68 male and 63 female, were registered during the year, giving a death-rate of 12.5 per 1,000, compared with a rate of 14.3 per 1,000 in 1946.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were seven deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 32 per 1,000 live births. The sex, age and causes of deaths were:—

Male	2 months	Bronco-pneumonia.
Male	5 days	Patent foramen ovale.
Female	2 months	Cardiac failure, marasmus.
Female	1 day	Bronco - pneumonia, complete cleft palate.
Female	1 minute	Asphyxia due to obstruction of air passages due to lack of attention at birth.
Male	9 hours	Prematurity.
Male	9 hours	Prematurity.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHŒA & ENTERITIS under 2 years of age—Nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below shows the causes of death of Dalton residents in 1947.

CAUSES OF DEATH				MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	—	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	1	5	6
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	—	1	1
9	T.B. of respiratory system	...	...	2	1	3
10	Other tuberculosis diseases	...	...	1	—	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	...	...	—	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	8	9	17
14	Diabetes	...	...	1	1	2
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	7	7	14
16	Heart Disease	...	...	28	20	48
17	Aneurysm	...	...	—	—	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	—	—	—
19	Bronchitis	...	...	1	—	1
20	Pneumonia all forms	...	...	4	7	11
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	4	—	4
23	Diarrhoea — 2	...	...	—	—	—
	Diarrhoea + 2	...	...	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	—	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	—	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver	...	...	—	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	2	—	2
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	1	—	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital debility, malformation etc.,	...	...	3	2	5
32	Senility	...	...	3	7	10
33	Suicide	...	...	—	—	—
34	Other Violence	...	...	—	—	—
35	Other defined diseases...	...	...	2	3	5
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	—	—	—
				68	63	131

The principal causes of death of Dalton residents in 1947 as shown by the above table were Heart Disease 48; Cancer 17; and Cerebral Arterial Disease 14.

There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis and 1 from Cerebro-spinal fever.

CANCER.—Brief particulars of the 17 deaths from this disease are shown below:—

Site of Disease	Male	Female	Total
Prostate	1	—	1
Stomach	4	1	5
Colon	—	1	1
Breast	—	4	4
Uterus	—	2	2
Lower Lip	1	—	1
Rectum	2	1	3
	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>17</u>

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district.

Year	England and Wales		148 Smaller Towns 25-50,000 pop.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1944	17.6	11.6	20.9	12.4	19.6	12.0
1945	16.1	11.4	19.2	12.3	15.4	13.1
1946	19.1	11.5	21.3	11.7	17.6	14.3
1947	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	20.8	12.5

The age distribution of deaths in 1947 is show below:—

-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	65-	70-	75-	80-	85-	90-	TOTAL
7	3	—	1	1	1	3	9	18	10	11	26	21	9	9	2	131

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PERSONNEL. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—A. DODD, M.D.
Ch.B. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:—Assistant County Medical Officer—
Lancashire County Council. Medical Officer of Health—
Ulverston Combined Sanitary District. Medical Officer—
Ulverston Joint Hospital Board.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:—W. W. JACKSON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Meat &
Foods Inspectors Certificate R.S.I. Certificate in Sanitary
Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Other Appointments Held:—Cleansing Superintendent—Dalton-in-
Furness Urban District. Housing Officer—Dalton-in-Furness
Urban District.

Mr. D. L. Wilkinson left the district on taking up an appointment at Easthampstead Rural District as Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. W. W. Jackson took up the appointment of Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer in July, 1947.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.—No major change occurred during the year in the hospital services of the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—In addition to the ambulance maintained by the Ulverston Joint Hospital Board for the conveyance to the High Carley Isolation Hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, a motor ambulance for accidents and non-infectious illnesses is provided by the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council to serve the Dalton District. There are reciprocal arrangements for help in case of need with the Ulverston Joint Ambulance Committee and the Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Ministry of Health Emergency Medical Service Laboratory at High Carley. Chemical Analyses, as required, are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Maternity and Child Welfare, School Medical, Dental and Health Visiting Services—Ulverston Combined Sanitary District.

These services are provided by the Lancashire County Council. Routine child welfare clinics, minor ailment clinics, dental clinics, and school medical and dental inspections are undertaken by Assistant County Medical and Dental Officers with health visitors and school nurses. The ophthalmic surgeon, obstetrician and orthopædic specialist attend the appropriate eye, ante-natal and post-natal and orthopædic clinics at Ulverston and Dalton. In addition the obstetrician visits the Grange Clinic fortnightly.

The times and places where County Council Clinics and County District Immunisation Clinics are held are shown below.

DALTON—Dowdales Clinic.

Monday	a.m.	Nil.
	p.m.	Immunisation, 1st Mon. every month, 2 p.m.
Tuesday	a.m.	Minor Ailments Redressing Clinic.
	p.m.	Nil.
Wednesday	a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic.
	p.m.	Antenatal Clinic.
Thursday	a.m.	Minor Ailments and Inspection Clinic.
	p.m.	Antenatal Clinic.

Friday a.m. Dental Clinic.
 p.m. Dental Clinic.

ULVERSTON—Brogden Street Clinic.

Monday a.m. Minor Ailments Redressing Clinic.
 Dental Clinic.
 p.m. Antenatal Clinic,
 Dental Clinic.

Tuesday a.m. Dental Clinic.
 p.m. Dental Clinic.
 Orthopædic Clinic every 2 months.

Wednesday a.m. Minor Ailments and Inspection Clinic.
 p.m. Child Welfare Centre.

Thursday a.m. Ophthalmic Clinic.
 Dental Clinic.
 p.m. Dental Clinic.

Friday a.m. Nil.
 p.m. Immunisation, 1st Fri. every month, 2 p.m.

GRANGE—Congregational Sunday School, Kents Bank Road
 2nd and 4th Friday each month, a.m., Antenatal Clinic.
 Tuesday fortnightly, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

Council Offices—1st Tues. each month, 2 p.m. Child Welfare Centre.

CONISTON—Church Rooms, Yewdale Road.

1st Friday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from the Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha Intake of the River Duddon.

There was no shortage of water during the year 1947.

Samples of water were examined bacteriologically on the dates and from the places shown below:—

From 4, Victoria Street, Dalton, 19th February, 1947.
 Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. Coli 0.
 No faecal coli.

From 40, Cemetery Hill, Dalton, 23rd September, 1947.
 Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml, Coli 8.
 No faecal coli.

From Piped Supply, Askam Booster Station, 23rd September, 1947.
 Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. Coli o.
 No faecal coli.

These reports indicate that a pure water was delivered to consumers.

HOUSING.—In common with most other areas, the shortage of houses in the district continues to be acute.

The task of providing temporary housing accommodation started last year and proceeded as quickly as materials became available, at the end of the year a total of 93 huts were occupied.

Work was also started on an Estate of 34 permanent houses at Ireleth and a further 6 at Little-fields, Dalton.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The following table shows the number of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1942-1946, compared with the numbers in 1947:—

DISEASE	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947		
						Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever	1	9	10	1	1	7	7	—
Diphtheria	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	2	210	2	97	—	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	34	—	22	4	3	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	4	24	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia & Fever	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	4	1	1	2	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	7	258	22	146	9	18	13	1

The incidence of Infectious Diseases generally was low in 1947. The seven cases of scarlet fever were all children. There was no evidence of any milk supply being involved in the spread of the disease.

The case of cerebro-spinal fever which died in hospital was a baby aged 13 months.

A short report on the incidence of Poliomyelitis in 1947 in Ulverston Combined Sanitary District follows.

POLIOMYELITIS / POLIOENCEPHALITIS IN THE ULVERSTON COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT.—In 1947, 17 cases of Poliomyelitis or Polioencephalitis were notified in the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District. Eight of the patients lived in the Ulverston Rural District; 7 in the Ulverston Urban District; 1 in the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District and 1 in the Grange-over-Sands Urban District. The fact that only one case occurred in Dalton is notable in view of the incidence during the year in the Ulverston Urban and Rural Districts as well as in the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness. This single case occurred at a farm in a Rural part of Dalton-in-Furness.

More detailed enquiry into these cases from an epidemiological aspect was made than has been customary in ordinary infectious diseases. Information was given and the respective forms completed in connection with the Poliomyelitis/Polioencephalitis Surveys of the Medical Research Council, the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital Survey of the Ministry of Health.

The table below shows the age, sex, date of onset, results of infection and the district in which the patient resided.

CASE NO.	AGE	SEX	DATE OF ONSET	RESULT	DISTRICT
1	29	M.	3/4/1947	DIED	Ulverston
2	33	F.	25/3/1947	Recovered	Bardsea
3	11	M.	2/5/1947	DIED	Lowick Green
4	3	F.	7/5/1947	Recovered	Ulverston
5	1	M.	31/5/1947	"	High Newton
6	29	F.	18/5/1947	"	Sparkbridge
7	34	M.	17/6/1947	"	Ulverston
8	49	F.	18/6/1947	"	Finsthwaite
9	33	M.	27/6/1947	"	Ulverston
10	34	F.	2/7/1947	"	Ulverston
11	33	F.	1/7/1947	"	Ulverston
12	12	M.	1/7/1947	"	Backbarrow
13	3	M.	27/7/1947	"	Askam
14	13	M.	?/7/1947	"	Grange
15	29	M.	17/9/1947	"	Bardsea
16	2	F.	19/10/1947	DIED	Ulverston
17	6	M.	26/11/1947	Recovered	Swarthmoor

It will be observed from the above table that three deaths occurred giving a case mortality of 17.6%. Two of these three deaths were of children. Fourteen cases recovered although some had residual paralysis or weakness. Only eight cases occurred in children representing 47% of the total. Six of these were male and two female. Nine cases occurred in adults representing 53% of the total; four of these were male and five female. The youngest adults affected were 29 years of age. A woman aged 29 was pregnant. She recovered and subsequently had a normal confinement.

The cases in the Rural District of Ulverston were scattered, no two cases occurring near to one another with the exception of two at Bardsea but the dates of the onset of these cases were respectively the 25th March and the 17th September, 1947. Of the cases in the Urban District of Ulverston no two occurred in the same street although cases occurred in streets which were near to one another. In the district as a whole no two cases occurred in any family and no two cases occurred in any school. There was no recent history of tonsillectomy in any of these cases. No connection was traced between any two cases or contacts and despite enquiry no evidence was obtained suggesting spread by milk or foodstuffs or by faecal contamination.

There is some evidence that abortive cases occurred in one part of the Rural District. I was told by a General Practitioner some time after the occurrence that the people in the district had had peculiar cold catarrh symptoms with eye signs such as diplopia. So far as I am aware all these cases recovered.

All known cases of Poliomyelitis/Poliocencephalitis were removed to High Carley Isolation Hospital excepting a boy from a private school in Grange who had returned home out of the district where the diagnosis was made.

The cases were classified for the survey of the Medical Research Council as follows:—

Non-paralytic—mainly spinal	...	...	1
Paralytic	...	...	12
Non paralytic—mainly cerebral	...	...	1
Presumptive—mainly cerebral	...	...	1
Not Polio (Diagnosis indefinite)	...	...	2

The Ulverston Joint Hospital Board was not happy about the availability of a mechanical respirator at the time when cases were prevalent in the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and in the

Ulverston Combined Sanitary District and considered purchasing a respirator. In view, however, of information received suggesting that it would probably be contrary to future policy to encourage the admission of Poliomyelitis cases to a small hospital such as the High Carley Isolation Hospital the Joint Board did not proceed to the ordering or purchasing of a respirator.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—During 1947 a total of 168 children completed the full course of immunisation, namely 163 under 5 years of age and 5 between the ages of 5 and 15. In addition 13 children had booster doses to maintain resistance to the disease

At the end of the year it was estimated that 60% of children under 5 years and 63% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 in Dalton had been immunised under the Local Authorities Scheme.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The tuberculosis service in the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The Dispensary at Ulverston is attended by the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the district and a Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Extensive facilities for the investigation and treatment of tuberculosis are available at High Carley Sanatorium, Nr. Ulverston.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947:—

Age Periods Years		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
20	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
45	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		9	8	4	3	2	1	1	0
		17		7		3		1	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton Residents during the past 11 years:—

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1937	4	1	1	4	—	—	1	2
1938	3	7	5	1	1	4	—	1
1939	9	7	7	7	4	5	—	2
1940	5	3	1	1	3	4	—	—
1941	4	4	—	1	1	1	1	—
1942	5	4	4	4	1	4	—	—
1943	12	5	4	5	3	4	—	—
1944	4	4	4	1	5	2	—	—
1945	13	7	1	2	7	1	—	—
1946	4	7	—	2	2	8	1	—
1947	9	8	4	3	3	1	—	—

It will be noted that there was a rise in the number of new pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases notified compared with the previous year and most recent years but that there was a decrease in the number of deaths.

In conclusion, I thank the members of the Health Committee and the officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council for courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DODD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report on the activities of the Health Department the year ended 31st December, 1947.

As the Council is aware I commenced duties on July 1st, and the process of becoming acquainted with the district takes some time. A considerable amount of time is taken up in the office, interviewing callers and completing forms for various purposes which detracts from the ordinary work of the Department to a considerable degree.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	103
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	141
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	26
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	26
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	79

2. *Remedy of defects during the Year without service of formal notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	60
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal statutory notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...			
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936 —Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	11
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...				12
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				63
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...		9
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....		13
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	...	...		72

MILK SUPPLY.—Eighty-six visits were made to forty-one farms producing milk in the area and they were, generally speaking, well-kept. There are three cowsheds at Askam which should be condemned at the first available opportunity. The occupiers have been informed of this.

At three farms arrangements are in hand for the taking out of "Accredited" Licences and every encouragement is given to this end.

Work is in progress on new farm buildings for the production of T.T. milk and it is expected to be in production in the early part of 1948.

FOOD INSPECTION.—Regular visits were made to retail shops in the area and a large quantity of food was examined. The following is a list of articles condemned :—

103 Fish Cakes	3 stone Wet Fish
47 lbs. Bacon	60 lbs Beef
21 jars Pickles	24 lbs. Margarine
260 lbs. Bread and Flour	58 lbs. Cocoa
1 bottle Coffee	24 cans of canned vegetables
138 cans of evaporated milk	15 cans Soup
1 can Macaroni Cheese	9 lbs. Cheese
13 cans of canned fruit	70 lbs. Dried Fruit
3 cans of Tomatoes	24 cans various canned stews
1 tin Mustard	6 cans Pork Luncheon Meat
1 packet Dried Egg	19 lbs. Jam
18 cans Sausage	182 packets Gravy Salt
20 lbs. Black Puddings	6½ dozen Eggs
7 cans Fish	9 dozen packets Frutella Salt

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—The offensive trades number six consisting of five Fried Fish Shops and a Knacker's Yard. The latter has been a bone of contention for some time and is in a bad state. Arrangements are afoot to make this a more hygienic establishment.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.—The collection of refuse has been carried out successfully. At the instigation of the Committee one man was disposed of and the remainder have carried on. The old Bantam has given considerable trouble and was taken off the road at the end of the year. The refuse is disposed of at Elliscales by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. A tip at Askam has been opened and is working successfully.

There are still twenty nine Privies, six Pail closets and sixty-four dry Ashpits in the district, all at outlying premises.

Since I took over duties at the beginning of July the amount of paper collected monthly has doubled and is now approaching the proper amount.

During the year 36 tons of paper valued at £233 were disposed of. Rags to the value of £9 were disposed of. Efforts will continue to be made to increase these amounts of raw material.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—So far as can be ascertained there are thirty-nine Factories on the register and at the close of the year twenty visits had been made to this class of premises. Two defects were pointed out to the occupiers and were remedied without further action.

In conclusion I am happy to record the good feelings existing between various trades of the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, the Medical Officer and other officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson and the cleansing staff without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. JACKSON,

Sanitary Inspector.
